

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) High-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp (1) comprising a lamp vessel (2) made of a transparent ceramic material, enclosing a discharge space (3) comprising an ionizable discharge medium and at least two electrodes (4,5), each provided with an electrode tip (4a, 5a), which tips are spaced apart at a mutual distance d, and electrical feed-through elements (6,7) which extend from the electrodes (4,5) to the exterior, characterized in that the distance d between the electrode tips (4a,5a) is less than 1.0 mm and the mercury density in the vessel (2) is higher than 0.3 mg/mm³.
2. (original) Lamp as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the distance between the electrode tips (4a,5a) ranges from 0.3 to 0.8 mm.
3. (currently amended) Lamp as claimed in claim 1-~~or 2~~, characterized in that the distance between the electrode tips (4a,5a) ranges from 0.3 to 0.6 mm.

4 (currently amended) Lamp as claimed in claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, characterized in that the mercury density in the vessel (2) ranges from 0.3 to 0.8 mg/mm³.

5. (currently amended) Lamp as claimed in claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, characterized in that the mercury density in the vessel (2) range from 0.4 to 0.7 mg/mm³.

6. (currently amended) Lamp as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the lamp vessel (2) comprises a bulging section (8) communicating with at least two feed-through channels (10,11) having an inner diameter smaller than the bulging section (8).

7. (original) Lamp as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the bulging section (8) is substantially cylindrical over the distance d and has an internal cross-sectional diameter D_i ranging from 1.5 to 4.5 mm and a length L ranging from 4 to 8 mm.

8. (currently amended) Lamp as claimed in claim 6 ~~or 7~~, characterized in that the wall load on the inside of the vessel (2) during operation ranges from 40 to 150 W/cm².

9. (currently amended) Lamp as claimed in ~~any of the preceding~~
~~claims 1-8~~claim 1, characterized in that the ceramic material is
chosen from the group consisting of sub-micro polycrystalline
aluminum (PCA), yttrium aluminum garnet (YAG), Y_2O_3 , $MgAl_2O_4$, and
aluminum nitride (AIN).

10. (currently amended) Lighting apparatus, comprising a main
body and at least a lamp as described in ~~any of the claims 1-9~~claim
1.